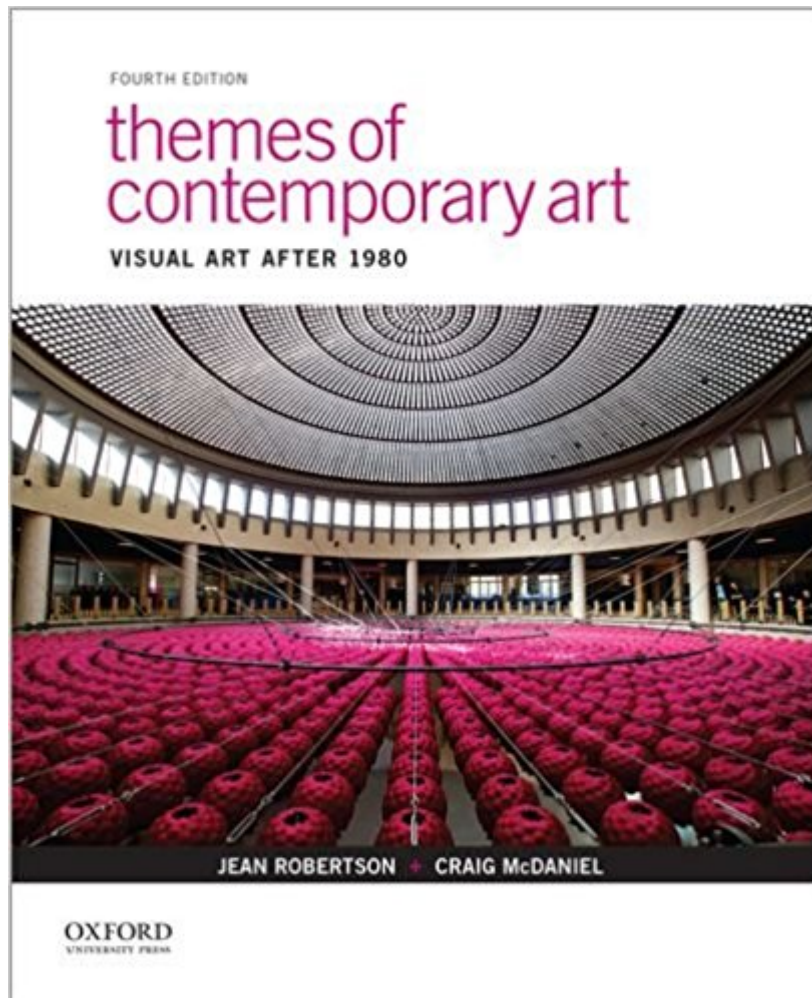




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# Themes Of Contemporary Art: Visual Art After 1980



## Synopsis

Offering a unique thematic approach to recent art history, *Themes of Contemporary Art: Visual Art after 1980*, Fourth Edition, focuses on eight central ideas recurring in art over the past few decades: identity, the body, time, memory, place, language, science, and spirituality. This thought-provoking volume features over 200 full-color images of artworks that exemplify a wide variety of materials, techniques, theoretical viewpoints, and stylistic approaches, by artists from diverse ethnic, cultural, and geographic backgrounds. Its concise, engaging, and accessible narrative challenges readers to think actively and critically about the ideas expressed in contemporary art.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This book does everything I need it to. The thematic organization is valuable and unique, allowing me to incorporate supplemental materials easily. It is well written, reasonably priced, and my students love it as much as I do. I absolutely always recommend it to other professors." --Julia Alderson, Humboldt State University

"Themes of Contemporary Art is written in a mostly jargon-free, plain-language manner that is at my students' level." --Anita Welych, Cazenovia College

"I think the authors have done a sensational job of breaking down difficult-to-grasp concepts while synthesizing the discourse into streamlined and elegant prose." --Miguel de Baca, Lake Forest College

"This is a superb contemporary art text. The writing, organization, and inclusiveness of Themes of Contemporary Art are outstanding. The historical overviews, the authors' self-reflection, and the analysis of artworks are exceptional. In my opinion, it is the best text for studio artists and a wonderful addition to contemporary art history courses." --Andrea V. Feeser, Clemson University

JEAN ROBERTSON is Chancellor's Professor of Art History at Indiana University's Herron School of Art and Design. CRAIG McDANIEL is Associate Dean and Professor of Fine Arts at Indiana University's Herron School of Art and Design. They are co-authors of *Spellbound: Rethinking the Alphabet* (2016).

I've struggled to find a good overview of contemporary art that's not just a chronological listing; the date artwork was created isn't really the most important factor, so why organize a book that way? I find the chapters in *Themes of Contemporary Art*, organized thematically, to be extremely relevant: science, the body, time, place, for example. The authors handle some topics with a greater degree of understanding than others. Place and The Body, for example, are well fleshed out (so to speak). However, the chapter on Identity is perfunctory and lacks a deeper understanding of the myriad issues facing people who are immigrants, displaced, or marginalized. A few other chapters lack written coherency and are almost reduced to lists of artists and concepts that can somehow be tied to the broader theme. Overall, despite these flaws, this book provides a good thematic overview and is best suited for those without a strong prior grasp of the global contemporary art scene. It's a fine introduction which does not wallow in artspeak.

Very well written. If you google the artists and philosophers the authors mention while reading this book, it will restore your interest in art. You may discover the context needed today feel the content of today's art.

I've been out of the art scene for a while and this book got me all caught up n a LOT of artists I did not know.

Copy I received was smudged and dog eared. Would be 5 stars for content.

Hated the book but I needed it for a class. It is what it says it is.

arrived in good shape

This was a required text for my studio art course at my university, and while it did make some interesting points, the layout of the book can be a bit frustrating for visual learners (ie, the people this book is supposed to be marketed towards). Often the author will refer to works that are either

pictured several pages away, or not at all, and only the center few pages are in color. Oh well. If you aren't bothered by the lack of visual examples in an art textbook, go for it though. Don't get me wrong, it's a pretty interesting, informative book. Just have Google Images open on standby.

An excellent manual for those who really want to understand what is Contemporary Art about. Gives a representative list of contemporary artists focusing in theoretical analysis of their work. Very useful for those who frequently visit museums and exhibitions.

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